

Peter, the porter, a prot of Minister to the Court of St. Petersburg, who is courteous, frank and amply deserving him the esteem and respect of every one who has the honor to converse with him. He has just received many favors from the Chair, and he represents the United States at the Moscow Court for the two years, and was recalled only at his own request. He is a native of this country a few weeks ago. His incident is related as having occurred during his ministerial career, which the propagandist of abolitionists might read with profit, if not with pleasure. His servant man Tom, an old negro about fifty-five years of age, stands in the relation to his master of a friend more than that of a slave. When Colonel Pickens received his appointment, the news of which, by the way, reached him at the same time with the intelligence of his confirmation by the Senate, he said to his faithful old servant: "Now, Tom, I have been appointed as Minister to Russia. It is a very odd, a very bad climate for you. I am ordered to a friend more than that of a slave. New York and also through England, where you'll be a free man, and if you have a desire to leave me you will go. You know master and if you desire to go, I will enjoy myself better if you stay at home. But you can do as you please."

"Master Colonel Pickens," said the faithful old fellow—"Master Colonel Pickens, your father and my old master died in my arms, on the banks of the Mississippi; I took care of him three months and I shall do the same of his gold watch, and I let nobody know it, and I came on to St. Louis through the woods and brought it safely to you in St. Petersburg, your father's gold watch. I shall die in my arms, like your father."

So Tom went to St. Petersburg, and he was the head man at the door on the state occasions, and acquitted himself with all the dignity due to his position. When Col. Pickens was about leaving St. Petersburg he said to his old servant, "Tom! I am going through Germany, and I want you to go with me, and I will give you a good salary, so to my Minister, Mr. Dallas, in London. Now, Tom, I shall make you courier; you shall go with my despatches to London."

Tom accepted the mission, and we do him but justice when we say that he discharged his duty with promptness and fidelity to his master.

In conclusion we may state that Colonel Pickens is a man of medium height of peculiarly prepossessing manner, and, as his election at this particular time proves, is exceedingly popular in his native State.

OUR DESPATCHES FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 1860.

The issue is made, and it is now before the American people and the world.

Senator Wade's speech, of which the Herald has already given a full synopsis, and which will immediately be published in full, is the most important of the session. It is denominated by the South, the "Missouri Compromise." It is denounced by the North, as a violation of the Union. It is the deed of whom is the Vice President of the United States, as the gloomiest protection that has yet appeared from the republican party. It closes forever any hope of pacification, and, as we declared to-night by one of the most prominent of the Southern representative men, it will unite the South within twenty days.

The threat of colonizing Mexico and Central America with free blacks is deemed to insulting to Southern pride and repulsive to Southern feeling in all grades of society. It is a gross insult to the South, as the unjust discrimination of the sentiment and appeal to arms rather than submit to it. The tone of dissatisfaction among them is more decided, and more compact, general, and revolutionary if possible, than heretofore.

The speech will produce vehement excitement in the Southern States, and at Columbia, S. C., where the seceding Convention is being held, it will not only fire the hearts of the delegates, but, it is feared, plunge them into rash measures of retaliation.

Mr. Wade has been boiling over with this speech for several days, ever since Senator Wigfall delivered his speech on behalf of the South. It has been with the utmost difficulty restrained from making a more violent explosion than he has.

While there is but one voice among republicans in favor of the speech, there is but one among the Southerners and Democrats generally in condemnation of it.

Senator Wade expects to be the Cromwell of the Northern revolutionary movement for the extinction of slavery, and he would inaugurate it by planting on the Mexican borders of the republic colonies of free blacks for the purpose of inciting murderous insurrections among the slaves of the Southern States, and of opening fugitive routes to the North, and thus to the South. He would aid the North in this diabolical movement. It is not a matter for the investigation of the government if we have a government! The Senate in executive session confirmed the nomination of Judge Blair as Secretary of State, and also sundry minor appointments.

The attempt in the House to adjourn over for the holidays signally failed. There is very little for the American people to rejoice about in these days, and still less when we take the sentiment prevailing at the seat of government as the standard of public feeling.

The meeting of the Pennsylvania delegation at the Avenue for the purpose of voting on several resolutions—first, that the proposition for the enforcement of all laws, federal and local, should emanate from Mr. Campbell, the republican member of the Committee of Thirty-three; second, that Mr. Corvode, republican, should adopt the recommendation of Senator Bigler, Democrat, and agree to strike out the words that their enforcement should be secured at all hazards; third, that the said Mr. Campbell should propose the restoration of the Missouri Compromise line; and fourth, that the subject of dividing the Territories into States should not have been introduced at all. All these propositions were presented and they were rejected after a brief calm conversation and a few remarks by Mr. Bigler and Mr. Hatch. The proposed verbal amendments to the resolutions as finally passed unanimously.

Mr. Grovode is the fourth proposition, as much as it gave an undue representation in the Senate for a population of half a million the Territories would have the same representation as half a dozen of the old States.

Messrs. Grovode, Blair, Corvode and Hickman were the principal speakers for several reasons—first, that Corvode, last but not least, is a native of Pennsylvania, and has but little to say in respect to points of view from the preponderant influence of the republicans at the caucus.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 1860.

Senator Wade's speech was listened to by an immense audience, and was interrupted twice by applause from the galleries, once when Senator Green gave a favorable Southern interpretation, and again when Wade spoke of the national capital falling into the hands of Northerners, and the flag of 76 flying from the dome. The speech concludes all possibility of adjustment.

He said the South have had the reign of government for years, and why should they complain of a government of which they have had the control. With the verdict of the people in their pockets, said Mr. Wade, the republicans have no compromise to offer or to make—the day of compromises ceased when the Missouri Compromise line was repealed. He charged the South with entertaining a blind prejudice against the North; that where no fugitive slave had been rescued by the North, ten Northern States had been corrupted, and again when Wade spoke of the national capital falling into the hands of Northerners, he degraded a savage, by Southerners, for even dared to say they voted for Lincoln. The republicans, he said, would administer the government as it was administered by Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Jackson and Polk, and in the spirit advocated by Henry Clay of blessed memory. Secessionism was denounced as treason, and it must inevitably result in bloodshed. Then the North would assume a protectorate over Mexico and Central America, and colonize them with free blacks.

The speech has much exasperated the Southerners, and it would have been a disaster to the North, if the army can reach the South. It will have to pass through Southern Ohio, where it will receive a baptism of blood. The city is much excited.

In the House a resolution declaring Federal Liberty bills unconstitutional, and condemning all acts calculated to interfere with the execution of United States laws, was adopted by a large majority. Mr. Morris' (Illinois) resolution, that no cause existed for dissolution, was adopted.

The Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois delegations met tonight.

At the Pennsylvania caucus, held in Avenue Hotel, Mr. Bigler, chairman, Mr. Marshall, secretary, a resolution was adopted after the following resolutions were read: That in view of sustaining and protecting the constitutional rights of all sections; that all the laws should be faithfully and promptly executed; that the Union of the States, the constitution and the laws of the United States, shall be maintained and enforced in all their integrity. The meeting was quite full, Thad. Stevens and Lincoln only were absent. The sentiment on the part of the Pennsylvania republicans, as expressed in caucuses, were not at all calculated to harmonize matters; but they tried

the South except what they could get from the Republicans present.

Gen. Slosson's presence here is salutary and may lead to good results. He regards the situation at this moment as mad. He believes that the States that distrust the country may be amicably arranged; and he is ready, with all good patriots and conservatives, to unite in sincere efforts to bring about so blessed a consummation.

Families in and out of Congress appear to treat the excitement with contempt, and advise republicans to keep their lips tight.

Despatch was received here to-day from Springfield, stating that Judge Bates had been tendered the position of Attorney General under Lincoln. It is understood that he would accept.

Judge Slosson and Mr. Van Allen left here this afternoon for Springfield, it is supposed with a view of getting an expression from Lincoln of some conservative opinions in regard to the present crisis.

It is clearly manifest to all who participated last evening in the caucus of the New York delegation that there is no hope of accomplishing anything. There did not seem any uniformity of opinion, or tendency to compromise with anything opinion relating to the avowed grievances of the South or their redress. Attachment to the Union was strongly expressed, but the methods of preserving it were widely opposite. Many were decidedly for coercion, others denounced it. This delegation, in truth, seems to present in its own the conflict of opinion which at this precise point divides the country.

There is little hope of unanimity among them.

The President sent to the Senate to-day the nomination of Attorney General Black to the Secretaryship of State, which was confirmed, about one-third of the Senators voting against the appointment. No other nominations were transmitted.

The House select committee was in session four hours to-day. It is reported that they have gone earnestly to work on the project of something acceptable to the South as it has improved.

Caleb Cushing, whose presence was requested in Washington, was in consultation with the President this morning.

Secretary Thompson left this morning for North Carolina. It is understood that, though he favors the secession of the Cotton States, he is friendly to the resumption of the relations with the others when the non-slaveholding States consent to give such constitutional guarantees as may be satisfactory.

It is not appreciated here that there will be bloodshed in the ordinary men of South Carolina should a surrender of Fort Moultrie, Maj. Anderson's instructions are deemed to be such as will enable him to retain an honorable position.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 1860.

The Senate of the United States presented an interesting scene to-day during the delivery of Senator Wade's speech, which occupied two hours and a quarter. An attentive throng in the galleries above him, a listening Senate around him, and the members of the Fourth estate largely represented, catching every word and committing it to their glowing lightning for the great public in every part of the country, were among the features of the occasion. Many of the ablest men in the nation, of all parties, Senators, representatives and others, from the North and South, who listened to Senator Wade, agreed that while he uttered some of his ideas in some language a little peculiarly his own, that as a whole his speech was a masterpiece of reasoning, strictly within the constitution, and exactly such a speech as the times demanded. Wade represents the honest feeling of the North. The growing opinion is that the North should speak out first, when it means—should withhold nothing, but present boldly and manfully, yet kindly, the real position they intend to assume in the event of secession by one or more States from the Union. Senator Wade's reference to the record of his father, who gallantly fought the battles of the country and sustained the flag, and his splendid personal and pledge to follow the example of his father in upholding that flag with his life, set only two speakers from the galleries but drew tears from many eyes.

Mr. Johnson of Tennessee, has the door to-morrow and will make a United speech.

The House has adjourned Wednesday and Thursday for Territorial business, when Mr. Grow from the Committee on Territories will bring forward four bills to organize Idaho, Nevada, Dakota and Arizona Territories. The anti-slavery proviso will be inserted in each bill, but if the slave power of the House, which predominates, is strong enough to scotch it out, the republicans will be obliged to withdraw.

The uselessness of the Convention, if Mr. Bates goes into Chicago as the delegates from North and South will be able to preserve their political record, and then unite their forces in organizing the Territories, some of which are at present controlled by mob law.

Some of the Indiana voters who enjoyed Lincoln in Chicago are here, telling what they call, their influence with Mr. Lincoln to obtain office under his administration. One of these voters, who has before a trumpet to bribe the republican party by his infamous offers, said to have obtained a \$2,000 draft from a prominent citizen, with a promise to reward the latter with a particular appointment from Lincoln.

The uselessness of the Convention from New York will cause again on Wednesday evening.

This evening Attorney General Black was confirmed by the Senate as Secretary of State, and there seems to be fair prospect that Edwin Stanton, of this city (formerly of Ohio), will be named as Attorney General, and Caleb Cushing, who has served the Natick Goblet as a charge, is talked of for the vacancy upon the Supreme bench. The opponents of Cushing argue that New England ought not to have two judges upon that bench.

I have the highest authority for asserting that Mr. Lincoln has not offered Judge Bates, of Missouri, the position of Secretary of the Treasury. If Mr. Bates goes into the Cabinet he will be Attorney General. The sentiment of the people—which Mr. Lincoln will consult in making his Cabinet—points to a Pennsylvanian for the Interiorship.

I learn by private letter from Springfield, Illinois that Lincoln will not come here before the 20th or 31st of March, following the example of Mr. Buchanan and others, who would be beset by the officiousing vultures before the heads of his departments were named, inaugurated and ready to instruct their respective responsibilities.

There is a feeling here that the administration is not sound but impracticable, who wish to involve him in new complications or who have axes of their own to grind, believe or suggest otherwise.

The statement that there is a republican movement on foot in this city to induce Mr. Lincoln to announce his views before the 4th of March is not true. The republicans are opposed to any such policy, believing that whatever he may say in the future will be garbled and misrepresented, just as what he has said in the past has been. His views are before the country. I am as certain that Mr. Lincoln will do nothing in administering the government as to destroy or in any way to impair the authority of anything said in the Chicago platform as far as the policy leading. This fact might as well be known first as last, if there is the slightest doubt anywhere on the subject. I speak what I know, if I know what declarations mean.

The Period Committee of thirty-three had a long session to-day, but there was very little done for the salvation of the Union. Some of the gentlemen complaining that committee whom the people have put here to transact the public business of the country, devoted most of the time of the session in denouncing the New York Herald correspondent, stationed here for not allowing their deliberations to be private. Several of the members of the committee, however, were received to-day, and a terror stricken to night, and are very close mouthed.

The fact is, that besides the long debate wasted in interfering with the Herald's regular business, the Committee did nothing but wrangle about the order of business. They finally voted to take up if Wm. Davis's proposition requiring Marshals to deliver fugitives to the district Judge in the district of the State escaped from, and guaranteeing a jury trial of identity. This to be in lieu of Personal Liberty bills, and to guard against kidnapping, to work the Southern non-secession of the proposition to be a demand for concession that they could not concede, as they preferred the primary kidnapping style at present provided for in the Fugitive Slave law to a jury trial in a Southern State, where the jury would be all slaveholders.

No vote was taken upon the adoption of the resolutions, and after consuming four hours in doing nothing the committee adjourned. The trouble about the committee is that it does not possess the adhesive qualities necessary to save the Union. Spaulding's glue would be abundantly preferable.

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